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THE FREEMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE FREE-ELECTORS Of the City of DUBLIN.

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THE

FREEMAN'S ADDRESS, &c.

Brethren and Fellow Citizens,

AS it is the appropriated Duty of every Member of the *Body* natural, to aſſiſt, and ſupport, the reſt; ſo likewiſe is it the indiſpenſible Duty of every Member of a *Body* politick to protect, defend, and to the utmoſt of his Power, to promote the Intereſt of the Whole: Is it not therefore incumbent on each Inhabitant of this Metropolis, *Citizens*, and *Freemen*, eſpecially, to advance the Welfare, and Happineſs of this City, more particularly when he ſees, thoſe Diſtractions, Encroachments, and imminent Dangers, to which, this once free and opulent City is reduced;

Yet,

Yet, ſince you are but too truly ſenſible of the illegal Oppreſſions, with which you are burdened, 'tis in my Opinion high Time to look out for an adequate Remedy; to obtain this End, ought to be the Endeavours of every Well-wiſher to his Country; the Way lies open, *viz.* TO BE FREE, that is to uſe all juſt, and legal Meaſures, to regain your loſt Rights: That you have been ſpoiled of your Priviledges, is a Point, never once conteſted by the moſt furious Partizans of the Faction; on the contrary, they point their venomed Rage againſt one Man, in all its Different Attitudes, to draw off the Eyes of unwary People, from beholding the numberleſs Calamities, to which we are reduced, by thoſe crafty undermining Guardians (Plunderers I might have ſaid with more Propriety) of our State. What ſingle Poſt, ever ſo poorly lucrative, that could by any means be wreſted from the City, but what is placed in the Hands of ſome of the favourite Minions of the BOARD, ſo that they have ſcarcely left us the bare outward Form of an Incorporated People.

But, (Thanks be to God) we have, I hope, if it be not our own Fault, ſeen an End of theſe deſtructive Schemes; Freemen may now venture to vote for a Citizen, without lying under thoſe melancholy Reflections, of being driven by lawleſs Force to Want, and Poverty: But what rendered this much worſe was; that it ſcarcely was ever in Power, if he even dared to be free, to vote for FREE CANDIDATE, none ſuch caring to appear, certain

tain of being overwhelmed, if not cruſhed, by the unlimitted Rage of an unbounded Faction.

It is now in our Power to beſtow, the ineſtimable Gift of LIBERTY, of FREEDOM, from an abject Dependance, on our *Selves*, our *Children*, our *Childrens Children*, and our *Poſterity* for ever, muſt he not be a *Slave*, a *Reptile*, of the loweſt Kind in Nature, to let ſlip the glorious Opportunity; when comes ſuch another? perhaps never. Let us then improve the advantageous Offer, for the Intereſt of our KING, and Country. Surely therefore you cannot heſitate a Moment, on whom in the enſuing Election, you ſhould fix your Choice.

Can it be ſuppoſed that a Set of Gentlemen, who make the Riches of this *City* their private Property, and now by conſtantly watching, for every Rupture in the State, have ſtrengthened themſelves in their illegal Poſſeſſions, by the inconteſtable Laws of *Cuſtom*, will, ſhould they obtain a larger Promiſe, and more extenſive Sway, reſtore you thoſe Privileges, which they have already, againſt all Laws, both Divine, as well as Moral, refuſed to give up.---Certainly you cannot even imagine it; Is it not therefore amazing, that the Board ſhould have the barefaced Aſſurance, to ſend two of their Members, the oppoſite Heads of their Faction, to aſk your Votes, your Intereſt to make your SPOILERS greater than they are, that they thereby may be the better

ter enabled to protect themſelves, and to oppreſs you.

Can you ſuppoſe, if hereafter you ſhould ever be obliged to addreſs your King for a Mitigation of your Grievances, that he will, he can believe you, who would believe, that after having your depradations laid open, your Rights told you, and your ENSLAVERS ſhewed to you, that if you knew or even feared thoſe Things, you would return one, or both of the greateſt of your Tyrants, to repreſent you in Parliament, not to obtain for you a Redreſs, of what you now ſo juſtly complain, but to fix their Feet more firmly on your Necks. No Alliance of Blood, no Friendſhip, no Bribes, or Places, no Favour, or Affection, can authoriſe you to be ſo daſtardly infamous, as to open your Mouths againſt your KING, your COUNTRY, or YOURSELVES; whatever Man has a Conſcience ſo callous, hardened by conſtant iniquitious Doings, as to be capable of being ſo baſe, helps as much as in him lies, to rivit your galling Fetters, to ſtrengthen your already inſupportable CHAINS.

Where is it then we muſt look out for Men to aſſert, and endeavour to reſtore our Rights, if we look among the great Ones, we ſhall find they are generally of the ſame Caſt, moſt of them ſome way allied, or beholding to the Board, therefore in honour cannot diſturb their *Reign*.

You

You muſt all be ſenſible, that thev are ſpeaking Members you want in the HOUSE, to be this either of your *Aldermen Candidates* do not pretend, if you caſt your Eye among the Citizens, you will find two Men poſſeſſed of every requiſite Qualification, and both ready and willing to ſerve you; it is by their joint Efforts that you have been reſcued from the moſt abject *Slavery* and *Dependency*, ; they have approved themſelves to you, that they are glad to undergo the moſt numerous and dangerous Difficulties, in a lawful Defence of your juſt Inheritance, long before one of them, I am perſuaded, had the leaſt Notion of repreſenting you in Parliament; ſince thoſe Places became vacant, have they uſed any ſiniſter or indirect means to gain your Votes; no Body, that is not a bigotted Enemy to either, will ſay they have.

Mr. *Lucas* has had ſuch high Notions of our free Spirit, that he has entirely thrown away the uſual unlawful Cuſtom of parading from Houſe to Houſe, with a Muſter Roll in his Hand, to keep Account of ſuch, as he could perſuade to vote for him, on the contrary he has laid down, both in his publick Speeches in the Halls, and in his Writings, the Fundamental Principles of our happy Conſtitution; he has ſhewn the neceſſary Endowments of a Member of Parliament, and, with his worthy Colleague, have endeavoured for your Intereſt for a Term of Years ſufficient to have ſhewn you your Duty; they have both convincingly pointed out (to uſe Mr. *Lucas*'s Words) not whom you ſhould, but whom you ſhould not, indeed, whom you cannot chuſe.

Such

Such Points as theſe, every Man ought to diſcuſs in his own Breaſt, whether thoſe, who have oppreſſed, and almoſt enſlaved us, and do ſtill perſiſt in the ſame deſtructive Meaſures, or thoſe who have already, and do ſtill continue, by their unwearied Efforts, to ſerve us to the utmoſt of their Power, are the fitteſt to repreſent us in the higheſt Court of Judicature in this Nation.

But the Board not being able to perſuade you to remain their paſſive Tools, they have employed every upſtart Traytor to his Country, to ſcandalize the Champions of your Cauſe, and if poſſible by their wicked Writings, to breed an unſeaſonable Jealouſy between *England*, and this Country. That we are ſubject to the *Engliſh* KING is our Safety, but were we the abject daſtardly *Slaves* that we are told we are, *England* itſelf, would ſcorn to protect us, they cou'd not believe that we wou'd throw ſuch an Ineſtimable Gift, as they had given us, away, which they had bought at the Expence of their Blood and Treſaure. What Battles have been fought? what Heroes ſlain? how did the glorious King *William* of Immortal Memory, expoſe his ſacred Perſon? all to regain this glorious Prize; and ſhall we then deſpiſe it, I hope not:

But the whole Scope of the Proſtitute Surgeon of the State is, if poſſible, to ingratiate himſelf with ſome of thoſe perfidious Traytors, to their KING and COUNTRY, that have ſought by their infernal Schemes to ruin theſe Kingdoms, he himſelf

ſelf has been wanting to lend his helping Hand to puſh us into the very Gulf of Deſtruction; he thought he was honeſt too long, and now therefore intends to make up his loſt time in ſelling his hireling Breath to the Ruin of his COUNTRY, but he has rouſed up other by far abler Hands than mine, to help to ſave the glorious Point of every Patriot's Wiſhes, and at the ſame time to ſound his dark, his infamous Deſigns.

That we are ſubject, and owe Allegiance, to the ſame SOVEREIGN with *England*, (whom God long preſerve) is as happy and advantageous, for us, as it is an uncontroverted Truth: For we are thereby reſcued, from the dreadful Calamities of Civil Wars, of Invaſions, of the Expences of Fleets and Armies, and other almoſt numberleſs Incumbrances, incident to an Independant Kingdom. As we are indebted to *England* for theſe many undoubted Advantages, let us be dutiful, not abject, let us honour her as our Guardian, not dread her as our Enſlaver, let us pay her a filial Obedience, and ſhe in return, will undoubtedly encourage and promote our Intereſt; this ſhe has conſtantly done only when her Government was enſlaved, by weak, fierce or tyrannical Kings, her Conſultations ſwayed by enſatiable Favourites, and her Courts of Judicature filled with ſuch Slaves, ſuch proſtitute Hirelings as the *Iximitable Antidotarian*, then indeed our goodly Guardians, the Gentlemen of the City, have taken the advantage of every ſoleciſm, and improved it to their own advantage: this has happened ſo often, for about a Century paſt, that they have almoſt

totally ſubverted the antient glorious Government, of this City.

Happy it is for us, that Men of ſuch deſtructive Principles, as this famous Bleeder of the State, this little Underling of the late Sir *R*——*C*——, is too well known, to be truſted in any one occaſion of Emergency, this he is very ſenſible of, and as he knows he has loſt all his Credit of one Side, he endeavours to ſupport the Other, by his ſcurrilous Writings; in hopes, I ſuppoſe of getting another ---------- Bribe, or a C-----p of C----; but I expect with every honeſt Man, he will find we are not the ſubſervient paſſive Tools, that he imagines. We can diſcover the vaſt Difference between foiſting, and plain ſelf-evident Reaſon; his pernicious Doctrine, is too viſible, tho' hid under the ſpecious Cloak of Zeal for his King, and the *Britiſh* Eſtabliſhment, to paſs on the Citizens of *Dublin*; the gilded Bait is too thin, to cover the deſtructive Hook, which if once lodged, would tear the Vitals of our Conſtitution to Tatters; he vainly endeavours to blaſt the Reputation of a Man, long tried, and found to be a true, and ſteady Aſſertor of our Rights, we have ſeen him a faithful Repreſentative of one of our Corporations, what may not then with reaſon be expected from him, if we ſhould honour him with our concurrence in his Election. When in the Commons tho' choſen by the Aldermen (thro' a Miſtake) he made it his Buſineſs, to diſcharge his Duty, without regard of either Threats, or promiſes, tho' under the moſt violent Reſentment of the Board, which at that time

time bore reſiſtleſs, unbounded Sway; he, and his Colleague, endeavour'd to make us ſenſible (and I hope we are ſo) that we have an undoubted Right, to be the *Creators* of thoſe overgrown Maſters; they attempted to make them diſgorge ſome of their ill-gotten Poſſeſſions, by due Courſe of Law, but being diſappointed in their reaſonable Expectations, their next Effort to lay our Grievances before his Excellency our preſent LORD LIEUTENANT, and laſtly, his truly loyal Dedication to our moſt Serene SOVEREIGN KING GEORGE, demonſtrate his moſt unalterable Affection to this City, and its rightful Conſtitution. Is it not for Us, that he has thus expoſed himſelf to the blind Fury of a dying Faction? Is it not our Intereſt he labours Night and Day to promote? What has he got but Reviling for Thanks, and Bitterneſs of Reproach for his ſtrenuous Endeavours.

He has given us a particular account of our Capital Grievances, as he has therefore laid our Wounds open, none more particularly demands our greateſt Attention, for a ſpeedy Redreſs, than the Government of the *Blue-coat-hoſpital*, which has been ſo long, and unjuſtly wreſted out of the Hands of the antient and only Governors, according to our original Charter, the *Lord Mayor, Sherifs, Commons, and Citizens*, and their Succeſſors for ever. By the *Royal Founder* of it, it was intended as a Receptacle or Nurſery for the *Ligitimate Children* of Freemen, as well as the decayed, and reduced Citizens, and made capable of Containing of both, the full Number of three hundred,

hundred, but to our amazement, we find, that there is barely half of the aforeſaid Number, of Boys, only except a few Officers, the Rents which were to ſupport it, having been unjuſtly detain'd by Men in Power, the Lands alienated, and the whole Conſtitution of that Fabrick almoſt overturned, for inſtead of the lawful Children of Freemen, and Citizens, it is really believ'd that the one half of thoſe few, that are there, are the ſpurious Offspring of Great Men, as well as the Children of their Servants, and Tenants, &c. What honeſt Heart but riſes in Indignation at theſe arbitrary Proceedings; ſhall we lie idle while our Tyrants are inriching themſelves to the ruin of this City, ſhall we not my beloved Brethren make theſe Ermin'd overgrown Maſters deliver up their ill-gotten Poſſeſſions, and reduce their enormous Bulk, down to their original ſtandard, while they are honeſt, while they diſcharge the Office, for which they were firſt elected, 'twould be the higheſt Impiety, to touch their ſacred Characters, but till they do, my Tongue, my Pen, ſhall ſcourge their iniquitous Proceedings.

Let the Gentlemen of the City, as they affect to call themſelves, tell why they have thus ſubverted our Government, why they expel us from the management of our own Affairs? by which means they have robb'd us of our Privilidges; Priviledges that few Cities in *Europe* could parrallel, when kept up to their primitive Conſtitutional Form; why they thus ſo unjuſtly detain the direction of the Royal *Blue-coat-hoſpital*, that its Gates are almoſt inacceſſible, to the Original, and only Inheritors, for Reaſons,

Reaſons only known to themſelves, one Inſtance of this my Brethren, I ſhall make bold to offer to your Conſideration. A Freeman of this City died about a Year ago, in very indigent Circumſtances, being reduced by the Decay of Trade, and other Misfortunes, and left behind him two Sons, Orphans, their Mother having died about ſix Months before. In Compaſſion to their Diſtreſs, and knowing this Hoſpital was deſign'd, for the Relief, and Support of ſuch, a Citizen of good Repute, and one of the Common Council for this City, applied to one of the great, but unlawful Governors, to grant an Order of Admiſſion, for thoſe two Children, into the aforeſaid School:-- but receiv'd this aſtoniſhing Anſwer,

" That his Worſhip had thoſe, that were near-
" er, and dearer to him, to provide for, beſides
" all the Places in his Gift, were full, only one,
" and that he kept that vacant, for his Coach-
" man's Son.

Thus, my Friends, you may perceive what you are to expect, if you ſhould by any means have the Misfortune of returning your Candidate Aldermen as Members for this City. If ſuch daring Incroachments may paſs unnoticed, uncenſured, we ſhall ſoon be deprived of our Power to elect for ourſelves, but like ſome other unhappy Boroughs in this Kingdom, be at the Diſpoſal of ſome arbitrary Tyrant, and be glad to caſt up our Hats to bid welcome to whatſoever Tool our gracious Maſters ſhall think proper to nominate.

Let

Let me intreat you to conſider fairly and impartially the Merits of your ſeveral Candidates: Let not blind Averſion oppoſe you to the one, nor Friendſhip incline you to the other: Let no Conſideration whatſoever bind you to any Intereſt againſt your *Conſcience*, that upright Monitor of all our Actions will never ceaſe haunting us, with the frightful Phantom of our ruined Country, if we do wrong. On the contrary, if we think, and act according to her Directions, ſhe will bring us thro' the moſt dreadful Calamities, and make us eternally happy; ſhe will raiſe our Souls with an unaccuſtomed Lightneſs, and make us ſoar to that ſublime Pitch, that Slaves can never attain, however decked with Honours, however adorned by Titles. The Man that's actuated by theſe upright Principles, ſmiles at the Dungeon, and deſpiſes the Dagger: With what Contempt will he behold thoſe Crowds of daſtardly fawning Sycophants, that cram the Levees of Fools and Knaves, ſhould they be honoured with Stars and Garters. He fears neither the Frowns of the Great, or the Malice of the Little; he keeps his deſtined Point in view, and is not averted from his Courſe, but can unconcernedly hear the moſt furious Threats denounced againſt him, by thoſe, whoſe clandeſtine Actions will not bear his open Light. He is the Pride of his Fellow-Citizens, and the Glory of his Country, and thoſe who ſtrive to oppoſe his upright Endeavours, thereby ſhew themſelves to be the greater Traytors to their KING, and the Bane of Civil Society.

To

To obtain this truly glorious Character, is the ultimate Period of all my Actions, and I am ſatisfied the ſame Paſſion dwells in every honeſt Breaſt.

Let us then endeavour to attain to it by ſtriveing in the Cauſe of our COUNTRY, let us free her from thoſe inſufferable Oppreſſions, of which ſhe has ſo long, ſo movingly complained. The glorious Time is at Hand, remember it is not a Struggle between this Man or that, the Tryal is of our Integrity againſt Power, of our FREEDOM againſt SLAVERY. We have ſeen our Repreſentations in the Courts of Juſtice ſlighted, Mr. *Lucas*'s Dedication to His Moſt GRACIOUS MAJESTY, who to redreſs wants only to know the juſt Complaints of his Subjects, was not permitted to go. What then remains but to be free in ourſelves, to be unbiaſſed, uninfluenced in the enſuing Election; and thoſe Men that ſhall be choſen upon theſe Principles, muſt ſoon cauſe a ſpeedy Reſtoration of our Rights, thro' the only Channel that is now left open: And that we may obtain to this deſireable End, is the Purport of all my Labours.

I am,

My beloved Brethren,

And Fellow-Citizens,

Your Free Brother,

And Well-wiſher.

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